

**71<sup>st</sup> UNGA**  
**2nd Committee**  
**ICTs for Development**

13 October 2016

**INDIA STATEMENT**  
**First Secretary, Mr. Ashish Sinha**

**Mr. Chairman,**

I express condolences to the people of Thailand on passing away of King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

**Mr. Chairman,**

India aligns itself with the Statement made by the distinguished representative of Thailand on behalf of G77.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The ongoing ICT revolution is transforming societies, economies and individual lives around the world. We are increasingly citizens in a digitally connected world.

The power of digitisation of information and data, the much expanded connectivity brought through instant communication, and the easy and increasingly affordable accessibility to information through smartphones is leading to profound changes everywhere. Mobile technologies and broadband connectivity are being rapidly deployed in developing countries and emerging markets. Social media, Big Data analytics and Internet of Things are completely altering the ways in which people interact with one another and with their governments.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development recognises the great potential of the spread of ICTs and global inter-connectedness to accelerate economic growth, inclusive development, to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies.

The use of ICT tools in e-governance is making Open Government Data widely available to all sections of society, including the more vulnerable and geographically isolated. It is vastly expanding the efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, monitoring and accountability in the public service delivery by government agencies with much reduced leakages.

Technological progress continues to drive innovative development interventions. Remote sensing coupled with digital technologies, decreasing cost of large computational capabilities and increasing connectivity are transforming geospatial information management systems that provide governments, businesses, and citizens with access to better real time information to make more informed decisions on a whole range of issues. The use of Geographic Information System data and Internet of Things hold the potential to transform the way public policy is formulated, implemented and monitored. Improvements in legal and regulatory frameworks are required to make full use of such innovations.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In India, there is a clear recognition both at the central and state government levels about the potential of using ICT technologies to improve governance. The vision of Digital India aims at digital empowerment of citizens through improved governance and services on demand and providing digital infrastructure as utility to all. While individual entrepreneurs are constantly coming up with innovative business models and platforms, public authorities are also making a strong push to improve service delivery by using ICT tools.

Through its flagship Digital India programme, the government is determined to bridge the digital divide effectively and empower vulnerable sections of population, besides vastly improving governance.

The Digital India programme focuses on enhancing broadband highways, universal access to mobile connectivity, public internet access programme, e-governance, electronic delivery of services, information for all, electronic manufacturing, IT for jobs and early harvest programmes.

The exponential increase in the easy accessibility and affordability of ICT is allowing e-services to reach all groups of society, including the poor, users in remote areas, and other disadvantaged groups, transforming the development landscape and making it much more responsive and inclusive.

E-services being offered include a very broad spectrum ranging from distance learning to supporting education and skills building in remote areas; telemedicine to support health care in rural areas; and agriculture information services to provide crop prices, weather forecasts, water management and new farming techniques that can lead to improved incomes for rural people. ICT is also being used for disaster preparedness and early warning, and improving transport and logistics efficiency.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The development of ICT-based land registry and management system is leading to streamlined land record administration activities and simplified transactions. E-government services provide easy online access to forms, birth certificates and other information. Open Government Data about public and financial institutions, welfare schemes and other opportunities is promoting

innovation through the development of new services, including helping to increase access of SMEs to business opportunities.

One of the landmark successes has been the use of ICT to push financial inclusion. This combines the power of the biometric-based unique individual identification system Aadhar with banking services and mobile phone technologies. More than 1 billion Indian citizens have already been issued their unique identity cards.

**Mr. Chairman,**

India will host the 10th International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance under the theme 'Building Knowledge Societies - from Digital Government to Digital Empowerment' in March next year in New Delhi.

I would like to conclude by reiterating India's continued active engagement to build upon the synergies between the outcomes of the World Summit on Information Society, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to strengthen global partnerships in utilizing the transformative impact of ICT tools in accelerating the achievement of the SDGs that we have set for ourselves.

Thank You.

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